

# The Edito

The Wasatch Wave  
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## Road to Flood Prevention Already Rough

3 July 1986

"There's trouble right here in River City" will be an apt title for an editorial next spring when the snow melt roars across Heber again, if we don't get going soon to prevent it.

Permanent flood control is a priority for both county and city officials. But it must be a cooperative effort, because what the county does in the eastern part of the county will hopefully control water flow across the valley significantly, reducing whatever the city might have to do. And what the city does will determine how the county will complete the job in the western sector.

However, the project is divided, even before it has begun. Heber Mayor Gordon Mendenhall says that Heber City will proceed with its own survey and plan because it is the quickest, most economic and effective alternative for the city. In the meantime the county commissioners have already paid for a survey of the Lake Creek area, prior to putting in a debris basin. They are tentatively committed to extending the study throughout the county, and state representatives agree. Commission Chairman Pete Coleman says there should be one study, one all-encompassing plan, and a single construction project, for the entire county and under its control. He says the commissioners can't formulate a definite course of action, in any event, until they



city's direction.

Both emphatically agree that they must

cooperate and avoid duplication of efforts.

No one's motives are in question. All city

and county representatives and employees

are to be congratulated on their zeal to

resolve the problem before the people in

their jurisdictions are hit with 1987 waters.

But, at this point, there are even questions

about jurisdiction.

Commissioner Coleman and Mayor

Mendenhall have both expressed their

determination to coordinate their efforts,

and have planned a meeting to iron out the

misunderstandings which are already

holding up to the process. We urge a speedy

resolution of current problems and that

future confusion be avoided through

ongoing, regularly-scheduled, open com-

munication between all parties involved,

until every county resident is reasonably

protected from flood damage.

The first flood of 1986 was in February.

February 1987 is only eight months away

and moving closer. The short, warm season,

during which work can be done, is

shortening. And the question of who's

engineer should do what survey isn't

resolved to everyone's satisfaction, yet.

Gentlemen, please hurry. The tide's rising.